



The Child and Family's Neighborhood

A child's safety in the neighborhood and at school, the amount of support families feel they receive from their neighbors, and the availability of child care all affect a family's comfort in their community and the child's freedom within the neighborhood. A number of questions within the survey were used to develop indicators that reflect the family-friendliness of the child's and family's neighborhood.



Supportive Neighborhoods

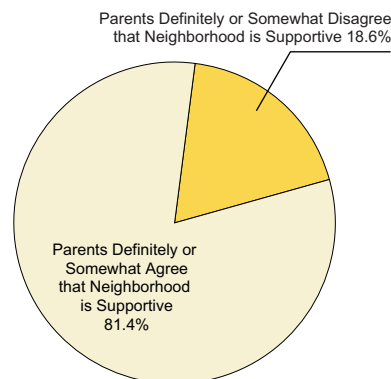
The survey measured whether families felt that they and their children were supported in their neighborhoods by asking whether they agreed with the following statements:

- People in the neighborhood help each other out
- We watch out for each other's children
- There are people I can count on in the neighborhood
- If my child were outside playing and got hurt or scared, there are adults nearby whom I trust to help my child

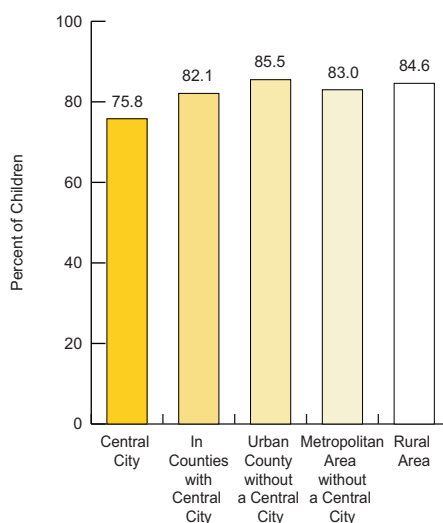
Families were considered to live in supportive neighborhoods if they answered "definitely agree" or "some-what agree" to each of the statements. Overall, parents of 81.4 percent of children report that they live in supportive neighborhoods.

Families living in urban areas are less likely to consider their neighborhoods supportive than those in suburban and rural areas. Of children living in central cities, parents of 75.8 percent report that their neighborhoods are supportive, compared to 82.1 percent of children living outside their counties' central cities, 85.5 percent of children in urban counties without a central city, 83.0 percent of children in metropolitan areas without a central city, and 84.6 percent of children in rural areas.

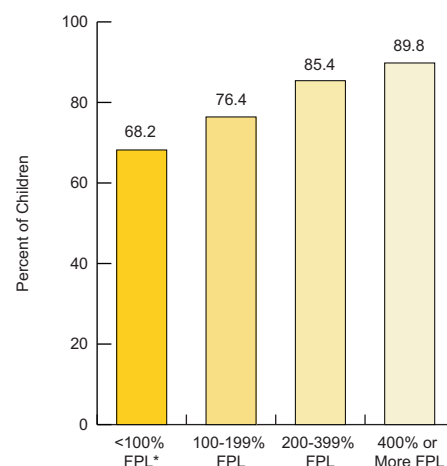
Children Living in Supportive Neighborhoods



Percent of Children Whose Neighborhoods Are Supportive, by Type of Community



Percent of Children Whose Neighborhoods Are Supportive, by Family Income



*Federal Poverty Level, equal to \$18,400 for a family of four in 2003.

Parents of children in higher-income families are more likely to feel that their neighborhoods are supportive. Of children in families with incomes below the poverty level, the parents of 68.2 percent report that their neighborhoods are supportive, compared to 76.4 percent of children in families with incomes between 100 and 199 percent of poverty.

Of children with family incomes between 200 and 399 percent of FPL, 85.4 percent live in supportive neighborhoods, as do 89.8 percent of children with family incomes of 400 percent of FPL or more.



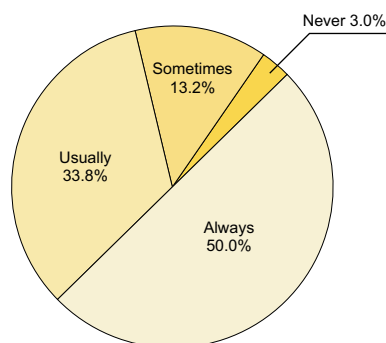
Safety of Child in the Neighborhood

Families are more likely to feel comfortable in a neighborhood if they feel that their children are safe. Parents were asked how often they felt that their child was safe in their community or neighborhood—never, sometimes, usually, or always. Overall, parents of 83.8 percent of children report that they feel that their child is usually or always safe in their neighborhood.

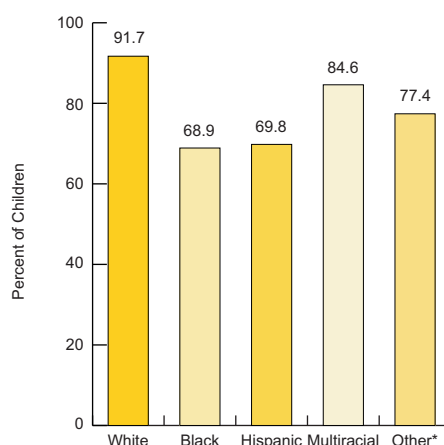
Parents of White and multiracial children are more likely to feel that their children are safe in their neighborhoods than parents of children of other racial and ethnic groups. Parents of White children report that 91.7 percent of their children are usually or always safe, as are 84.6 percent of multiracial children. In contrast, parents of 69.8 percent of Hispanic children, 68.9 percent of Black children, and 77.4 percent of children of other races feel that their children are safe.

Parents' assessment of their children's safety varies by income as well. Of children with family incomes below the poverty level, 69.7 percent are reported to be safe in their neighborhoods, compared to 77.6 percent of children with family incomes between 100 and 199 percent of poverty. Of children with family incomes between 200 and 399 percent of FPL, 89.3 percent live in safe neighborhoods, as do 93.3 percent of children with family incomes of 400 percent of FPL or more.

Children's Safety in Their Neighborhood

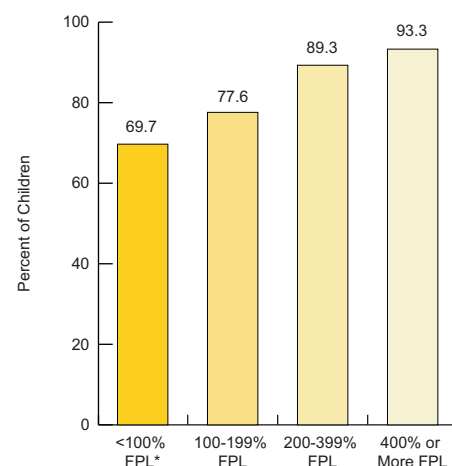


Percent of Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Their Neighborhood, by Race and Ethnicity



*Includes Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native children.

Percent of Children Who Are Usually or Always Safe in Their Neighborhood, by Family Income



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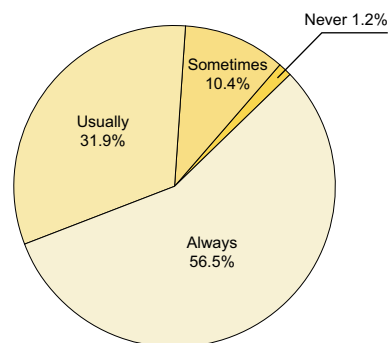
Safety of Child at School

Parents of school-aged children (aged 6-17) were also asked how often they felt that their children were safe in school. Overall, parents report that 88.4 percent of children are usually or always safe in school.

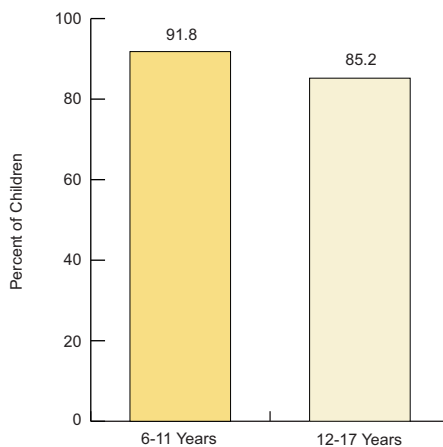
Younger school-aged children (aged 6-11) are more likely to be reported to be safe in school (91.8 percent) than are adolescents aged 12-17 (85.2 percent).

Parents of children in higher-income families are also more likely to report that their children are safe in school. Parents of 76.1 percent of children with family incomes below the poverty level report that their children are usually or always safe in school, compared to 83.7 percent of children with family incomes between 100 and 199 percent of poverty and over 90 percent of children in higher-income families (92.5 percent of children with family incomes between 200 and 399 percent of FPL and 96.0 percent of children with family incomes of 400 percent of FPL or more.)

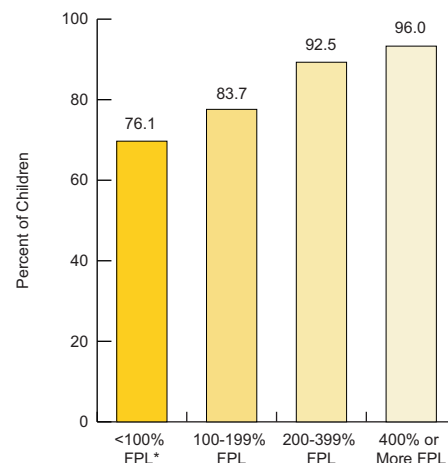
Children Aged 6-17 Years Who Are Safe in School



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 Years Who Are Usually or Always Safe in School, by Age



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 Years Who Are Usually or Always Safe in School, by Family Income



*Federal Poverty Level, equal to \$18,400 for a family of four in 2003.

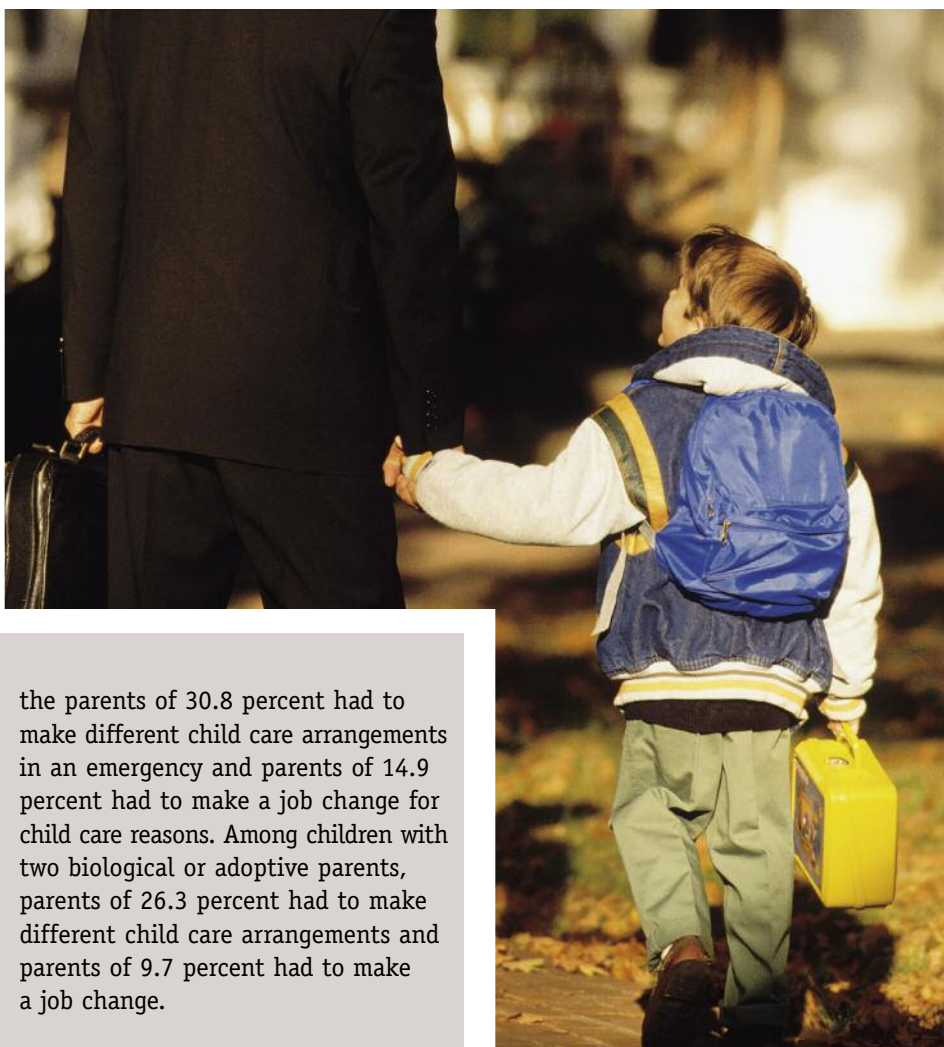
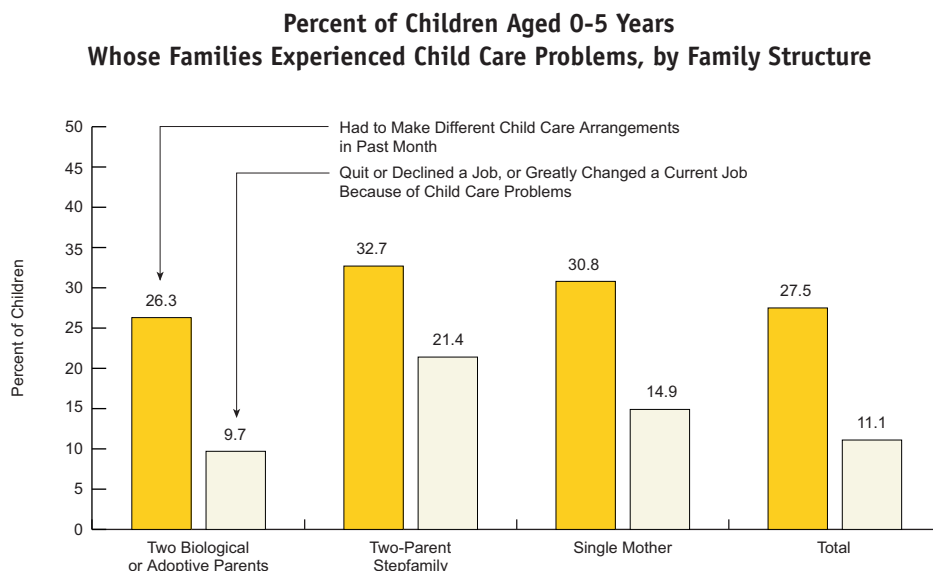




Child Care

The availability of child care, and the ability to make backup child care arrangements in emergencies, is another important aspect of families' comfort in their communities. Parents of children aged 0-5 were asked how many times in the past month they had had to make different child care arrangements due to circumstances beyond their control, and whether anyone in the family had had to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change their job because of child care problems within the past year. Overall, parents of 27.5 percent of young children had to make alternative child care arrangements at least once in the past month and parents of 11.1 percent reported that they or someone in the family had to make a job change (quit a job, not take a job, or make significant changes at a current job) because of child care problems. Parents of approximately one-third of children (33.2 percent) reported that they had had either or both of these child care issues.

Problems with child care appear to be more common among two-parent stepfamilies than in other types of families. The parents of nearly one-third of children in two-parent stepfamilies (32.7 percent) reported that they had to make different arrangements at least once in the past month, and parents of 21.4 percent had to make a job change due to child care problems. Among children of single mothers,



the parents of 30.8 percent had to make different child care arrangements in an emergency and parents of 14.9 percent had to make a job change for child care reasons. Among children with two biological or adoptive parents, parents of 26.3 percent had to make different child care arrangements and parents of 9.7 percent had to make a job change.